

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A data-providing apparatus attached to a plurality of user apparatuses over a network, said data-providing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive content data transmitted from the plurality of said user apparatus;

a user contents control unit configured to control recording of the content data received by the receiving unit into a recording area corresponding to each user apparatus with a user ID indicating each user who offers the content data to be shared and a shared data flag ~~set by the user~~ in a database;

a shared contents control unit configured to control the recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and

a data-supplying unit configured to supply content data set to be shared to the plurality of user apparatus apparatuses in response to a demand made by the plurality of user apparatus apparatuses,

wherein the shared data flag indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not, and wherein the shared data flag is set in the database based on property data edited by the user when the user transmits the content data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising thumbnail-generating means for generating a thumbnail corresponding to the content data received by the receiving unit, and thumbnail-transmitting means for transmitting the thumbnail to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines whether the content data should be paid for its use, when the content data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines a fee for the content data when the content data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fee is an amount that the data-processing apparatus needs to pay to the second data-processing apparatus when the content data is supplied to the second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A data-providing method, said data-providing method comprising the steps of:
receiving content data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;
controlling a recording of the content data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the content data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and
supplying a content data set to be shared to said plurality of user apparatus
apparatuses in response to a demand by said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A program-storing device for use with a computer, which stores a computer-readable program, the program performs the steps of

receiving content data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the content data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the content data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and

supplying a content data set to be shared to said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses in response to a demand by said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.